

We claim:

1. A method of treating a nonwoven fabric to improve the alcohol repellency of the nonwoven fabric while minimizing any negative effect of the treatment on the water repellency of the nonwoven fabric, the method comprising contacting a nonwoven fabric with an aqueous treatment solution that comprises from about 0.1 weight percent to about 0.9 weight percent of a non-ionic fluoropolymer and essentially no antistatic agent or less than 0.05 weight percent of an antistatic agent, wherein the hydrostatic head value of the treated nonwoven fabric drops by no more than 45 percent relative to the hydrostatic head value of the untreated nonwoven fabric.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the contacting the nonwoven fabric with an aqueous treatment solution comprises dipping or running the nonwoven fabric or a portion of the nonwoven fabric in to a container of the aqueous treatment solution and wherein the hydrostatic head value of the treated nonwoven fabric drops by no more than 30 percent relative to the hydrostatic head value of the untreated nonwoven fabric.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the aqueous treatment solution is a stable dispersion of non-ionic fluoropolymer in water and wherein the hydrostatic head value of the treated nonwoven fabric drops by no more than 25 percent relative to the hydrostatic head value of the untreated nonwoven fabric.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is selected from the group consisting of spunbond fabrics, meltblown fabrics and laminates thereof and the solution comprises less than 0.005 weight percent by weight of an antistatic agent.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the treatment solution includes no antistatic agent and the method further comprises contacting the nonwoven fabric with a second solution that includes an antistatic agent wherein the hydrostatic head value of the treated nonwoven fabric drops by no more than 15 percent relative to the hydrostatic head value of the untreated nonwoven fabric.
6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising contacting one side of the treated nonwoven fabric with a second treatment comprising an antistatic agent, wherein the hydrostatic head value of the treated nonwoven fabric drops by no more than 10 percent relative to the hydrostatic head value of the untreated nonwoven fabric.
7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the antistatic agent is an organic phosphate ester.
8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the treated nonwoven fabric has a hydrostatic head value of greater than 45 mBar as measured by Federal Test Standard 191A, Method 5514.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the treated nonwoven fabric has an alcohol repellency of at least 70 percent as measured by INDA Standard Test No. IST 80.9-74 (R-82) and a hydrostatic head value of greater than 45 mBar as measured by Federal Test Standard 191A, Method 5514 and the method of treating the nonwoven fabric decreases the hydrostatic head value of the nonwoven fabric by less than 10 percent.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the treated nonwoven fabric has an alcohol repellency of at least 75 percent as measured by INDA Standard Test No. IST 80.9-74 (R-82) and a hydrostatic head value of greater than 45 mBar as measured by Federal Test Standard 191A, Method 5514.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is a laminate that comprises at least one spunbond layer and at least one meltblown layer.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is a laminate that comprises at least one spunbond layer.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is an infection control fabric that is or comprises a spunbond/meltblown/spunbond laminate, a spunbond/film/spunbond laminate, a spunbond/film/spunbond/meltblown/spunbond laminate or a spunbond/film/film/spunbond laminate.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein the treatment solution comprises greater than about 0.15 weight percent of a non-ionic fluoropolymer or a mixture of non-ionic fluoropolymers.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the treatment solution comprises greater than about 0.20 weight percent of a non-ionic fluoropolymer or a mixture of non-ionic fluoropolymers.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein the treatment solution comprises greater than about 0.25 weight percent of a non-ionic fluoropolymer or a mixture of non-ionic fluoropolymers.

17. The method of Claim 1, wherein the aqueous treatment solution further comprises an alcohol.

18. The method of Claim 1, wherein the aqueous treatment solution further comprises an alkyl alcohol.

19. The method of Claim 1, wherein non-ionic fluoropolymer is selected from the group consisting of fluoroalkyl acrylate homopolymers, fluoroalkyl acrylate copolymers, fluorinated siloxanes, fluorinated silicones, fluorinated urethanes, and mixtures thereof.

20. The method of Claim 1, wherein non-ionic fluoropolymer is a non-ionic fluoroalkyl acrylate copolymer.

21. A nonwoven fabric treated according to the method of Claim 1.

22. An infection control product comprising a nonwoven fabric treated according to the method of Claim 1.

23. A nonwoven fabric comprising a first surface and a second, opposing surface wherein the first surface comprises a non-ionic fluoropolymer and the second surface that comprises an antistatic agent.

24. The nonwoven fabric of Claim 24 wherein the nonwoven fabric is a laminate or a portion of a laminate.

25. An infection control product comprising a nonwoven fabric laminate of Claim 24.

26. A method of improving the alcohol repellency of a nonwoven laminate by applying a topical treatment to a nonwoven laminate while minimizing any negative effect of the topical treatment on the water repellency of the nonwoven laminate, the method comprising:

providing a nonwoven laminate;

contacting an aqueous treatment solution that includes from about 0.20 weight percent to about 5 weight percent of a non-ionic fluoropolymer or a mixture of non-ionic fluoropolymers with the nonwoven laminate or a portion of the nonwoven laminate;

the non-ionic fluoropolymers are selected from the group consisting of non-ionic fluoroalkyl acrylate homopolymers, fluoroalkyl acrylate copolymers, fluorinated siloxanes, fluorinated silicones, fluorinated urethanes, and mixtures thereof; and

then contacting a surface of the topically treated nonwoven laminate with an antistatic agent selected from the group consisting of organic phosphate esters.

27. A nonwoven laminate treated according to the method of Claim 26.